An Account of the York (KZN) Public Library

– Gavin Peckham, September 2024

This is one of several roads that lead to York. Sadly nowadays, there's not much to see once you get there. The unmistakeable profile of the Blinkwater appears on the skyline on the left.

The P150, originally called Umvoti Road, leads to the 'Market Square' at the point where the road 'vanishes'.

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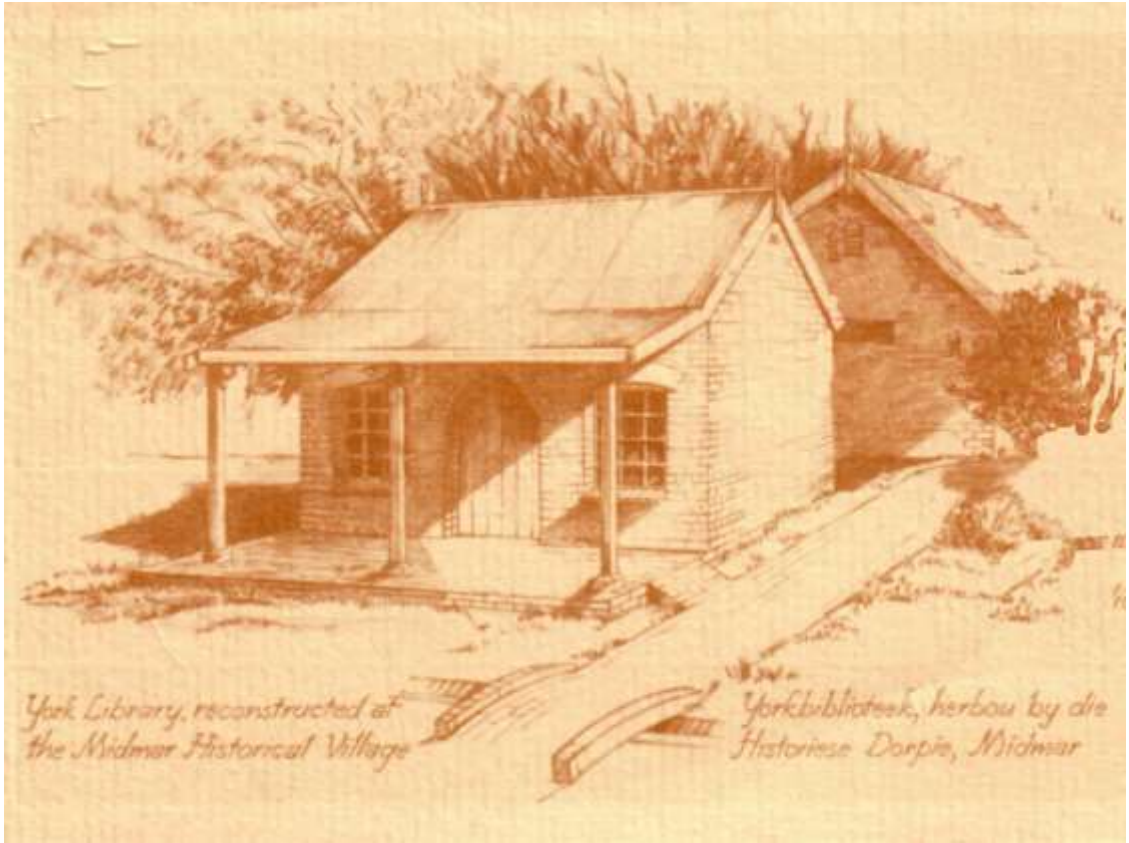

The York Library after reconstruction at the Midmar Historical Village.[1]

[1] This illustration appeared on the front cover of a brochure announcing the opening of the Midmar Historical Village.

Introduction

In 1850 a party of about 250 people, mainly Wesleyans from the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, England, immigrated to Natal on the good ship *Haidee* under the auspices of Henry and Mary Boast. Some of these settlers established a village they called York about 35 km north of Pietermaritzburg. The tiny village grew slowly but steadily for a while but then began to stagnate and fade away. Today, little remains of this once vibrant little village.

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Figure 1: Location of York. Google Maps, 2004.

Layout of the Village

In December 1850 the township of York was laid out on the farm *Milie Hoogte.* There were 17 blocks of between 8 and 12 acres. Ten of these blocks were subdivided into 2 acre plots as shown in the adjacent diagram.[2] The four main roads met at the Market Square in the centre of the village.

The names given are those of the original *Haidee* settlers to whom the plots were allocated. Only a handful of settlers took occupation of their allocated plots. The other plots remained vacant and were abandoned or sold to other settlers residing in the village.

The diagram contains some minor errors but these are of no relevance to the York library.

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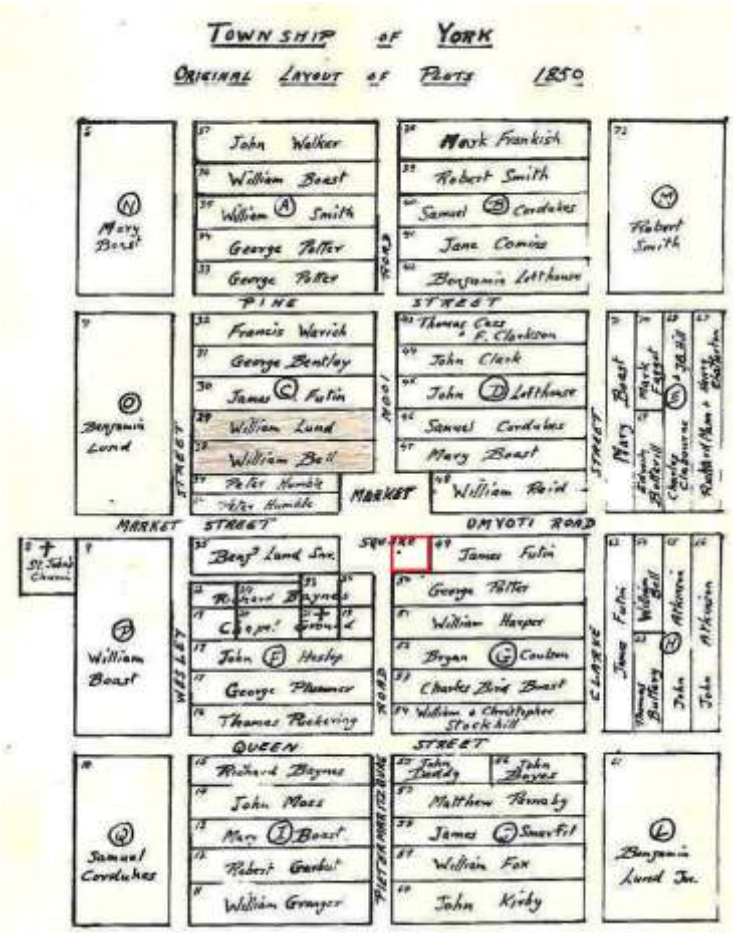

Figure 2: The layout of the village.

[2] This sketch is taken from page 4 of a 1977 booklet by Ethel Norma Paterson titled, "The Church of St John the Evangelist, York, Natal. 1877 - 1977". She does not state the source, but several variations similar to this one are floating around.

The Location of the Library

The Google Earth images below show what York looks like today – a dusty crossroad amidst gum tree plantations. Little remains of the original village apart from the Wesleyan cemetery, St John's Anglican church, a small store and three or four rustic homesteads.

The York Public Library was built in 1899 on part of the Market Square, at the corner of Pietermaritz-burg and Umvoti roads, as they were known in those days, and facing onto Umvoti Road. Its original position is marked by the red square in Figures 2, 3 and 4. In the 1980s it was moved to the Midmar Historic Village and since then the original site has remained vacant. Back to Contents

Figure 3: York, Google Earth, 2024.

Figure 4: The same Google Earth image overlaid by the original town plan.

Construction

The York Public Library was built in 1899,[3] some 50 years after the village had been established. I have not come across any evidence describing how it came into being, but there is little doubt that a committee of residents would have discussed, approved and at least partially funded the project. There is also a suggestion that the Carnegie Corporation in New York may have made a contribution.[4]

The building was a small rectangular structure built with the famous red bricks[5] from which many of Pietermaritzburg's historic buildings were constructed. The building had a gothic style front door with a window on either side. The door had previously been the original front door of the Wesleyan chapel (See Footnote 4), but became redundant when a portico was added to that building. The library roof was corrugated iron, painted a dark red and, as was usual at the time, a finial (roof spire) adorned each gable. The building was fronted by a veranda with elegant spandrels on the three wooden pillars that supported the veranda roof.

The photo below shows what the library would have looked like soon after it was built. Sadly, as will be noted later, the photo actually shows the building after it was removed to the Historical Village at Midmar Dam Resort just north of Pietermaritzburg and then restored. Back to Contents

The York Public Library, after having been moved to the Midmar Historical Village and renovated.

[3] This is an estimate based on the date of documents pertaining to the acquisition of the first shipment of books.
[4] This is mentioned in an article by Elizabeth Martin which appears on a later page.
[5] These bricks were made by Brookside Brick &Tile owned by Mr Nalini Naidoo. The company was taken over in 1933 by Corobrik and was located on the site currently occupied by the Midlands Mall. See the following sites accessed on 10 August 2024: https://witness.co.za/archive/2013/05/27/he-made-the-bricks-that-built-pmb-20150430/ and https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php/?story_fbid=2081426655217954&id=241806852513286

Acquisition of Stock

William Emerson Mears (K4JT-BLN)[6] was the resident Wesleyan minister at York during the library's early years and he served as its first president with Thirza Jane Franklin (G828-5W2) serving as the first honourable secretary and treasurer.

On 6 April 1900 Ms Franklin wrote a letter to the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Natal asking for financial support to buy more books for the library. See Appendix 1. In that letter she reports that the 22 library members had themselves raised about £11. Of this, £10 had been sent to England to purchase books and the first batch had already been received.[7] Another reference[8] is somewhat more specific and states that books were purchased from Mudie & Son in London.[9]

Ms Franklin received a reply, dated 19 June 1900, which stated that an amount of £10 would be voted by Parliament for this purpose in the estimates for the next financial year.

The annual report and balance sheet for 1909 indicate that Ms Amy Plummer (GZ5G-R58) was now the honorary secretary and treasurer and that the library was still receiving an annual grant from the Legislative Assembly.[10] Ms Plummer was the daughter of one of the original *Haidee* settlers, George Plummer (9KHT-V41). She served in the capacity of librarian, secretary and treasurer until about 1947 – a few years before her death. (See Footnote 8.)

The Statistical Year Books for the Colony of Natal were called NATALIANA but were commonly referred to as "The Blue Books". When I visited the University of Natal's Pietermaritzburg campus in 2004, I was able to find basic information about the York Public Library in the volumes for the years 1901 to 1909. As a sample, the entry for 1904 is shown below.

> **Colony of Natal; Statistical Year Book for the Year 1904:**
> Ref = Natal Archives : NCP 7/3/11
> pp 404-405
> Date Established : 1899
> Government Grant : £10 pa
> No reading room
> No. of Volumes withdrawn during the Year : 0
> No. of Volumes added during the Year : 57
> Total No. of Volumes on the Shelves at the end of year : 270
> Total No. of Volumes issued during the Year : 150
> Average Monthly Circulation : 12
> Percentage of Fiction to other Reading matter issued during the Year: 90 per cent
> Total No. of Subscribers : 25

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[6] These are the FamilySearch IDs for people that I could trace.
[7] Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository: Depot: NAB. Source: CSO. Volume #: 1645. Reference 1900/2585
[8] Mrs Molly Mason, nee Hutcheson, gave me a copy of an article by Elizabeth Martin, librarian at the Epworth Junior School, titled, "The York Library – why did it die?" It appeared on pages 17 to 19 of an unknown magazine, but one which was probably produced by Epworth Junior School, Pietermaritzburg.
[9] A brief history of this company may be seen at: https://campaignfurniture.com/artists/mudie-sons accessed on 13 August 2024.
[10] Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository: Depot: NAB. Source: NT. Volume #: 153. Reference T4850/1909

The information for the years 1901 to 1909 is similar and is summarised in the table below. The data for 1910 has been extracted from an annual report submitted to the Department of Education by Ms Amy Plummer.[11] A copy of this report, in her own handwriting, may be seen in Appendix 2.

There are a number of interesting things to note in this report. These include the fact that the president at that time was the Rev. William Elliot who was also the resident Wesleyan minister – as was the case with the Rev. Mears. The report mentions that the library was insured for £ 100 and the books for £ 70. Although not included in the table below, the annual reports also included a figure for the percentage of fiction relative to all other reading material issued during the year. This usually hovered around 90%. A detailed balance sheet was attached to the report. It reflects a turnover of about £ 21 and contains details that some folk may find interesting – such as the sale of a tin lined packing case for five shillings. Presumably this was the case in which Mudie & Son dispatched the annual order of books from London. All this and more in Appendix 2.

Year	No. of Volumes added during the Year	No. of Volumes on the Shelves at the end of Year	No. of Volumes issued during the Year	Average Monthly Circulat-ion	No. of Subscr -ibers	Govern-ment Grant
1901	98	195	410	34	19	£ 10
1902	20	215	450	37	20	£ 10
1903	0	215	218	18	17	£ 10
1904	57	270	150	12	25	£ 10
1905	56	271	240	20	23	£10
1906	56	271	240	20	23	£ 10
1907	32	303	216	18	23	£ 8
1908	66	370	216	18	17	£ 8
1909	49	450	584	48	17	£ 4
1910	47	497	602	50	18	£ 5

I have no further annual reports at my disposal and thus no further information of this nature. However, Elizabeth Martin reports that by the time the library closed in 1947, the total stock had grown to about 2000 books. (See Footnote 8.)

Ladies investigating the abandoned library some time during the 1960s. Photo: John M Deane

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[11] Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository: Depot: NAB. Source: CSO. Volume: 1897. Reference: 1910/5784

Demise and Removal to Midmar Historical Village

According to information gleaned by Elizabeth Martin (See Footnote 8) the York library was affiliated to the Durban City library with an annual affiliation fee of £2. Local residents could join the library for an annual subscription fee of half a guinea – i.e. 10 shillings and sixpence. Over the years, there were generally about one and a half dozen subscribers. This generated and income of around £10 p.a. In addition the library received an annual subsidy of between £5 to £10 from the colonial government. Further income was generated by the sale of old magazines and catalogues. This gave the York library an annual income of about £20 - as reflected in the 1910 balance sheet shown in Appendix 3.

Of the annual income, about £10 was generally spent acquiring books from Mudie's in London, about £2 on magazine and catalogue subscriptions. Much of the remainder was spent on an assortment of sundries.

The library continued functioning until the elderly Ms Amy Plummer retired in 1947. She had been the librarian, secretary and treasurer since 1909 and probably even a few years earlier. With her resignation, the library closed its doors for the last time. Sadly, she died just a couple of years later.

Thereafter, the library was essentially abandoned. Some books were given to the New Hanover Primary School and others to the University of Natal. Others lay abandoned on the shelves or gathering dust on the floor. That was the condition of the library when I saw it in the early 1960s. My Dad, Douglas Peckham, was probably one of the last children to be raised in York. When our family moved from Pietermaritzburg to Schroeders in 1960, my Dad twice took me to see the old village. Although the old library and chapel left some mental images, I am sad to say that I had absolutely no interest at that time and didn't bother to tap my father's knowledge – knowledge for which I would be so grateful today.

For thirty odd years, the old library building stood abandoned and forlorn. In about 1980, it was taken apart brick by brick and reassembled in the newly established Midmar Historical village located on the shores of Midmar Dam near Howick in Natal. One may see from the photos, that during this reconstruction, the original windows had been replaced, and the 'wing walls' on the veranda were not rebuilt. Presumably some bricks had been damaged in the demolition and reconstruction process and there were not enough left to reconstruct this minor feature.

Sadly, even the Midmar Historical Village has now fallen into disrepair and neglect.

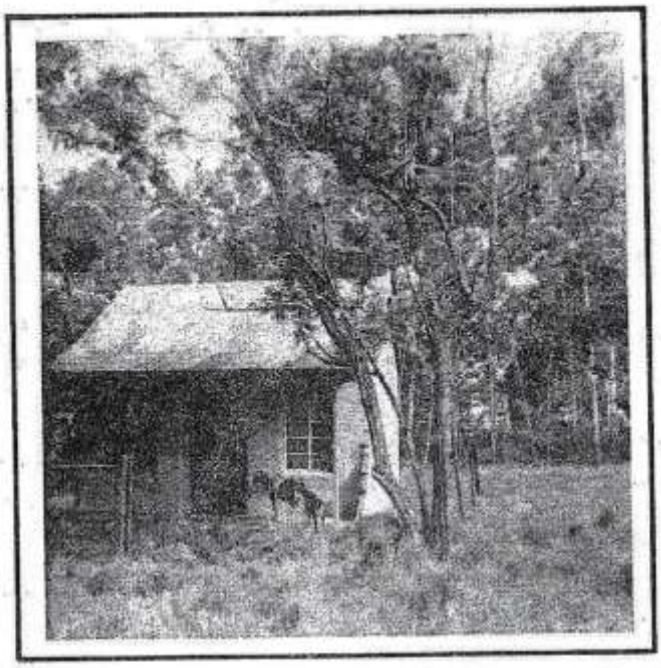
Right top & bottom: The library in its years of abandonment. Adjacent: Library restored at the Midmar Historical Village.

This is the site once occupied by the York Public Library. The photo was taken by my sister, Lynne Reed, in 2024 from what was once called Umvoti Road, now the P150, and looking south towards the York Cash Store. The row of gum trees (eucalyptus) on the right indicate the direction of what was once called Pietermaritzburg Road.

Two articles follow, each of which gives interesting additional information, despite some minor errors.

Article by Elizabeth Martin – The York Library, why did it die?

This excellent article gives a delightful account of the York library. A few comments follow at the end.



THE YORK LIBRARY

WHY DID IT DIE?

Elizabeth Martin

(In the deserted village of York, nearly half-way from Pietermaritzburg to Greytown as the crow flies, stands an abandoned library building. We asked Mrs. Martin, teacher and librarian at Epworth Junior School, to investigate its story for us.)

The story of the Library, as far as I have been able to discover it, is a sad one. It was built, some people think, before 1900, though the earliest date stamp I have traced is 1906. It stands still, a prim little red-brick building, at the intersection of Mooi River Street and Pietermaritzburg Street, the main thoroughfare of the old village.

There are several descendants of the original settlers, living either in Pietermaritzburg or in the district about York, and it was fascinating to make contact with them and find out what they remembered about the Library.

I was told that help was received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, but whether for the building or the books no-one is quite sure. The bookstock rose to a maximum of about 2000.

The "Gothic" door, which stands open now for goats to go in and out, came from the local Methodist chapel, which originally had two doors.

The York Library was affiliated to the Durban City Library, which in 1930 followed the example of Germiston by starting a service to rural libraries on the "box system". The affiliation fee was £2 a year. The people of York paid a subscription of ten shillings and sixpence a year and "the best books of the day were regularly bought from Mudies" in London.

I can remember that during the thirties Miss Amy Plummer opened the Library one afternoon a week, and people with such names as Boast, Peckham, Bentley, Comins and Franklin, most of whose parents and grandparents came out on the Haidee in 1850, would walk up the hill or down the hill, according to where they lived, to exchange their books and their news. Miss Plummer, when she was young, had taught in the well-known school of Mr Muirhead (amongst whose former pupils was the legendary Mr A.S. Langley, Headmaster of D.H.S.). Her cottage was hung with pink roses, and the front steps were sanded and patterned like those of the Yorkshire villages from which the first settlers came.

The great impetus with which York began in 1850 seems to have ended when railways were built in Natal. These people, who had left England for economic reasons (high rents and taxes, and failure of crops) and who, according to Dr John Clark (author of Natal Settler-Agent) were the best of the immigrants that came to Natal at that time, are said to have resisted the building of a railway through York. A railway would have meant a hotel, a hotel meant a bar and a bar meant drunkenness, and drunkenness was an evil from which they must shield their young people. So the railway went through New Hanover instead, and prosperity followed the railway (New Hanover at the last Census had 181 Whites as against York's 3). So the story goes. But a pamphlet put out by the Pietermaritzburg Publicity Association, with the title See Natal By Road, ascribes the rapid decline of York to the realignment of the road to Greytown. Perhaps there is truth in both stories.

By 1947 the tall, gentle Miss Plummer was no longer able to run the Library, and nearly all the books were apparently given away: some to soldiers, some to the New Hanover School and some (as late as 1963) to the University of Natal.

I took some Std IV schoolchildren to York on a History Expedition early this year, and they were sensitive to the sadness of the place. One wrote:

> "Now it has bare walls, only one of the bookshelves left. The old step-ladder leans against the wall. On the floor are the remains of the books, eaten here and there by a hungry bookworm. This is all that is left of the old times."

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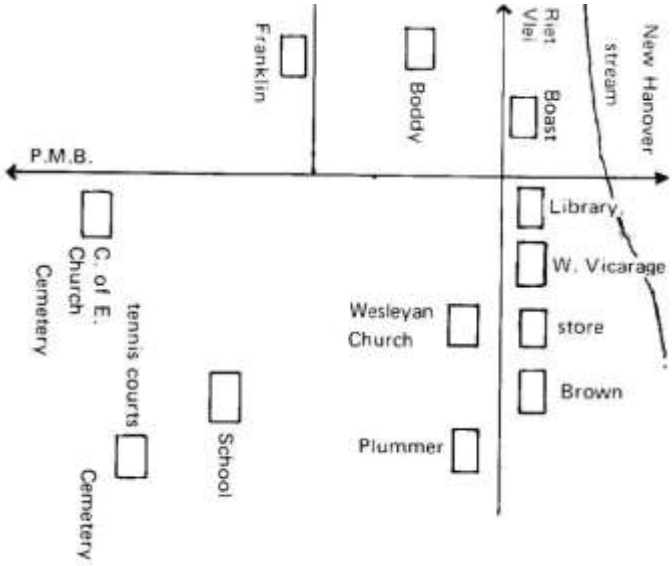
Comments on the Previous Article.

The library was situated on the corner of Pietermaritzburg Road and Umvoti Road, and not Pietermaritzburg Street and Mooi River Street as stated.

The Plummer homestead, where the librarian for several decades, Ms Amy Plummer, resided was known as Rose cottage and was located on Lot 17 (see Figure 2) facing onto Pietermaritzburg Road as shown in a rough sketch of the village from about 1910.[12] A 1935 sketch of Rose Cottage by Phyllis Wadsworth is also shown.[13]



There is a widespread tale about decline of the village being due to the teetotal Wesleyans refusing to allow the 1900 railway extension to Greytown to pass through their village. This is not entirely true and I have discussed the matter in another article.[14] The decline in the welfare of the village may rather be attributed to the rerouting of the main road to Greytown, as mentioned in the article above, and to the fact that the younger folk tended to leave for the cities whilst the older folk began to die out – that being the fate of many small villages elsewhere in South Africa and around the world.

Another interesting article mentioning the York library was published in the Natal Witness in 1967. It was written by Harvey Campion and based on his interviews with Mrs Roanne Wortmann who ran the York Cash Store at that time. Mrs Wortmann posted a copy of the article to the "Natal Midlands Memories" site on FaceBook on 23 September 2018. For interest's sake, the full copy appears on the following pages, although only parts of it refer specifically to the library. These parts are highlighted in yellow. The article is followed by a transcript, as the copy is somewhat blurry and not particularly easy to read.

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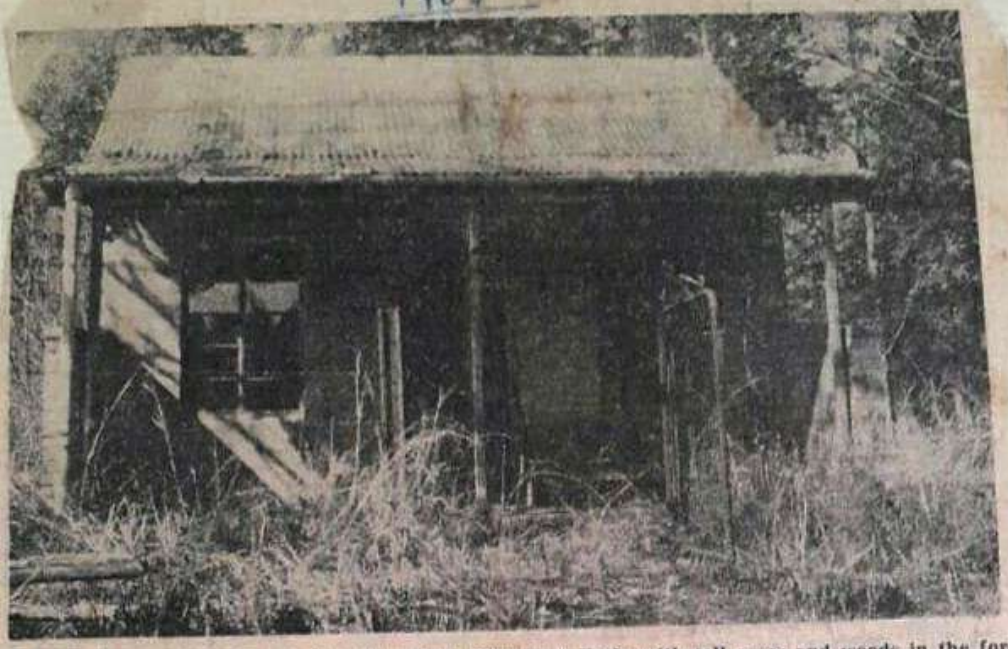
[12] Ethel Norma Paterson , "The Church of St John the Evangelist, York, Natal, 1877 - 1977", (published 1977), pg 8.
[13] Phyllis Wadsworth (1993). "William Smith – Natal Settler of 1850", pg 83.
[14] Gavin Peckham (2018). "York - the Great Railway Myth." See the "Files" section of: https://www.facebook.com/groups/midlandsinthemist/

1967



Trees form a backdrop to the old public library at York, with tall grass and weeds in the foreground. Built by the early settlers, the building is still in good condition, and its few remaining books are indicative of the reading tastes of the Victorian era.

YORK — THE TOWN OF FOUR FAMILIES — ONE OF EACH RACE

A CHURCH that is used every second Sunday, a trading store and four families make up the "ghost town" of York, just over 20 miles from Pietermaritzburg off the Greytown Road.

by Harvey Campion

Although York is a deserted village, the story of its failure is well known. Founded by a group of early English settlers it had prospects of growing into a flourishing farming centre until the advent of the railway.

The townspeople decided not to permit the proposed railway line to go through or near the town, and the economic life of the community collapsed.

There is a Pietermaritz Street in York and the sole trading store occupies a site in this street. Opposite the store is a disused Methodist Church, built in 1860, standing back from the road and partly hidden from view by trees. At the end of Pietermaritz Street is the also disused public library.

The four families of York which form the total population of the village, are truly representative of the whole of South Africa. There is one Coloured family, one Indian, one African and one European.

there, and the small pedal organ is still in working order. Outside the building the brickwork is sound and in good condition.

LIBRARY

The library occupies a corner site at the end of York's Pietermaritz Street. It is a small, neat building and, like the church, the outside brickwork is in good condition.

Inside, however, is a different story. The library shelves lie in a cluttered

passed, where the accent was on sentiment and romantic idealism, rather than the gimmicks and sensation of today.

Work is still being done to maintain the old library building. Mrs. Wortmann told me that the walls had recently been replastered and windows replaced. Like the church, the library has attracted the bees, and their low-pitched drone gave notice of their presence.

York "the ghost town" is living on among its memories, but its four-family population seems content.

Mrs. Wortmann told me that "York was a fantastic place in summer," and pointed to the commonage on high ground at the back of the store, where cattle graze when the hillside is lush and green after the rains.

Mrs. M. Webster, a widow, is the Coloured member of the town, with Mr. and Mrs. P. Kadir, the Indian family; Mr. and Mrs. D. Nkosi, African; and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Wortmann.

Mr. Wortmann, who owns the trading store at York, was secretary of the York Health Committee until it was moved to Pietermaritzburg about two months ago.

PROFITABLE

I found Mrs. Wortmann in the trading store, and she told me that business was good. York may be a ghost town, but it still has a profitable, going concern in its store dealing mainly in African trade from the Natal Tanning Extract Co. and local farmers.

The trading store is thought to have been a school, but the original high school was a double-storey building. It was one of the many buildings that sprang up in the town of York after the settlers moved in. Apart from the high school there was a market square, library, churches and houses. The houses have now completely disappeared.

Of the two churches, one is no longer used as a place of worship. A swarm of bees have, however, tried in vain to convert the building into a giant bee-hive.

A Bible, hymn books and vases of flowers are still in the disused church. The Bible is dated 1900 and one hymn book which I saw bore the date of 1877.

Heaps of dead bees were on the floor and window sills, and a scent of honey pervaded the whole building, while the hum of bees still active droned down from the roof like a low continuous organ note.

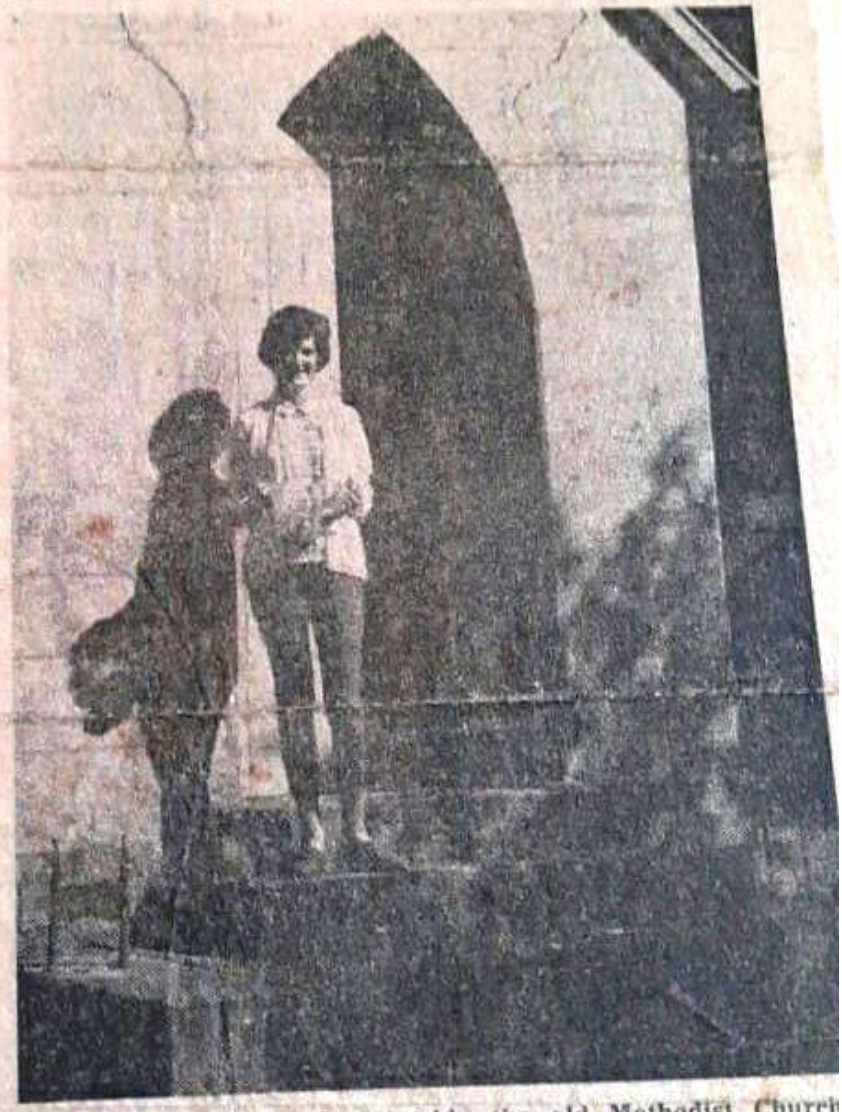
Most of the fittings inside the church are in good repair, even the kneeling cushions by the communion rail are still **jumble with the books, some of which have been eaten through by rats, scattered and forgotten.**

A date stamp on one of the books was October, 1906, but there was no need to look at the dates on many of the other volumes to see their age.

Titles such as "The House where Dreams come True," "The Daughter Pays" and "The Old Tree Blossoms," spoke of an age that had

Before I left York, I visited the church that is still in use—St. John's Anglican Church, built by the early York settlers in 1870. Here, too, there was the hum of bees. The church grounds were large and well kept, and trees surrounded the well-cared for cemetery.

This is the resting place of many of the early settlers, and I felt that, although York had failed as a centre of commerce, it had succeeded in a more subtle way of holding on to its memories and keeping alive the atmosphere and peace of an age that we may not see again.



☐ Mrs. Anne Wortmann outside the old Methodist Church York. She is holding one of the many glass vases still in church that were used for flower arrangements.

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A transcript of this article, with comments inserted in square brackets, appears on the following page. The sections referring specifically to the library are highlighted in yellow.

YORK – THE TOWN OF FOUR FAMILIES – ONE OF EACH RACE

– ***by Harvey Campion***

A church that is used every second Sunday, a trading store and four families make up the "ghost town" of York just over 20 miles from Pietermaritzburg off the Greytown road.

Although York is a deserted village, the story of its failure is well known. Founded by a group of early English settlers it had prospects of growing into a flourishing farming centre until the advent of the railway.

The townspeople decided not to permit the proposed railway line to go through or near the town, and the economic life of the community collapsed. *[As mentioned above, this is not entirely true.]*

There is a Pietermaritz Street *[Pietermaritzburg Road]* in York and the sole trading store occupies a site in this street. Opposite the store is a disused Methodist Church built in 1860 *[actually 1866]*, standing back from the road and partly hidden from view by trees. At the end of Pietermaritz Street *[Pietermaritzburg Road]* is the also disused public library.

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Work is still being done to maintain the old library building. Mrs. Wortmann told me that the walls had recently been replastered and the windows replaced. *[I seriously doubt this.]* Like the church, the library has attracted bees, and their low pitched drone gave notice of their presence.

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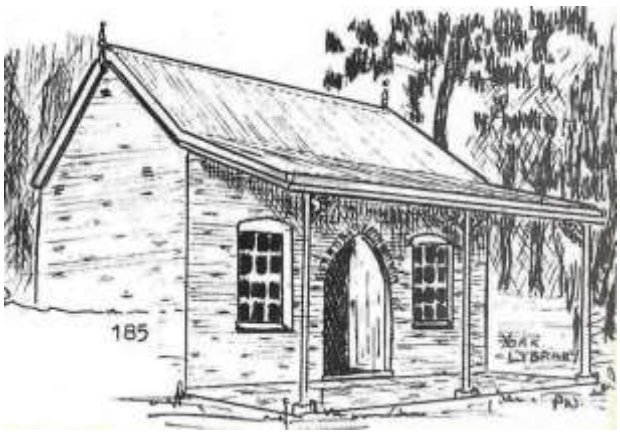
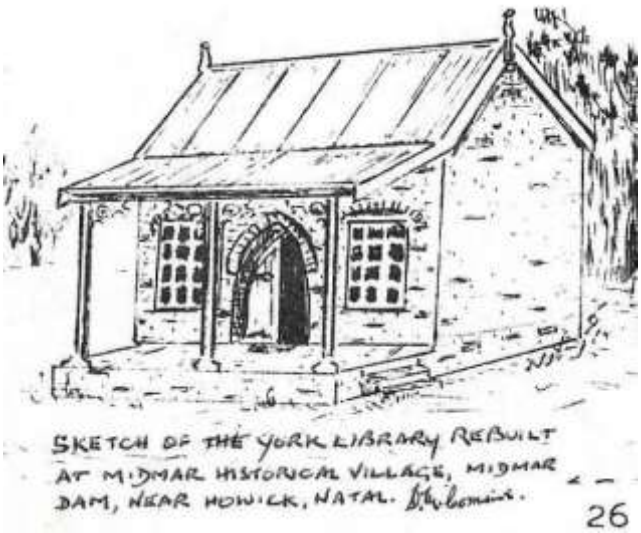
Mrs. Wortmann told me that "York was a fantastic place in summer." And pointed to the commonage on high ground at the back of the store, where cattle graze when the hillside is lush and green after the rains.

Before I left York, I visited the church that is still active, St John's Anglican Church, built by the early York settlers in 1870 *[actually, 1877]*. Here, too, there was the hum of bees. The church grounds are large and well kept, and trees surrounded the well-kept cemetery.

This is the resting place of many of the early settlers, and I felt that, although York had failed as a centre of commerce, it had succeeded in a more subtle way of holding on to its memories and keeping and keeping alive the atmosphere and peace of an age that we may not see again.





Phyllis Wadsworth's sketches of the York library as seen from Umvoti Road, now known as the P150.

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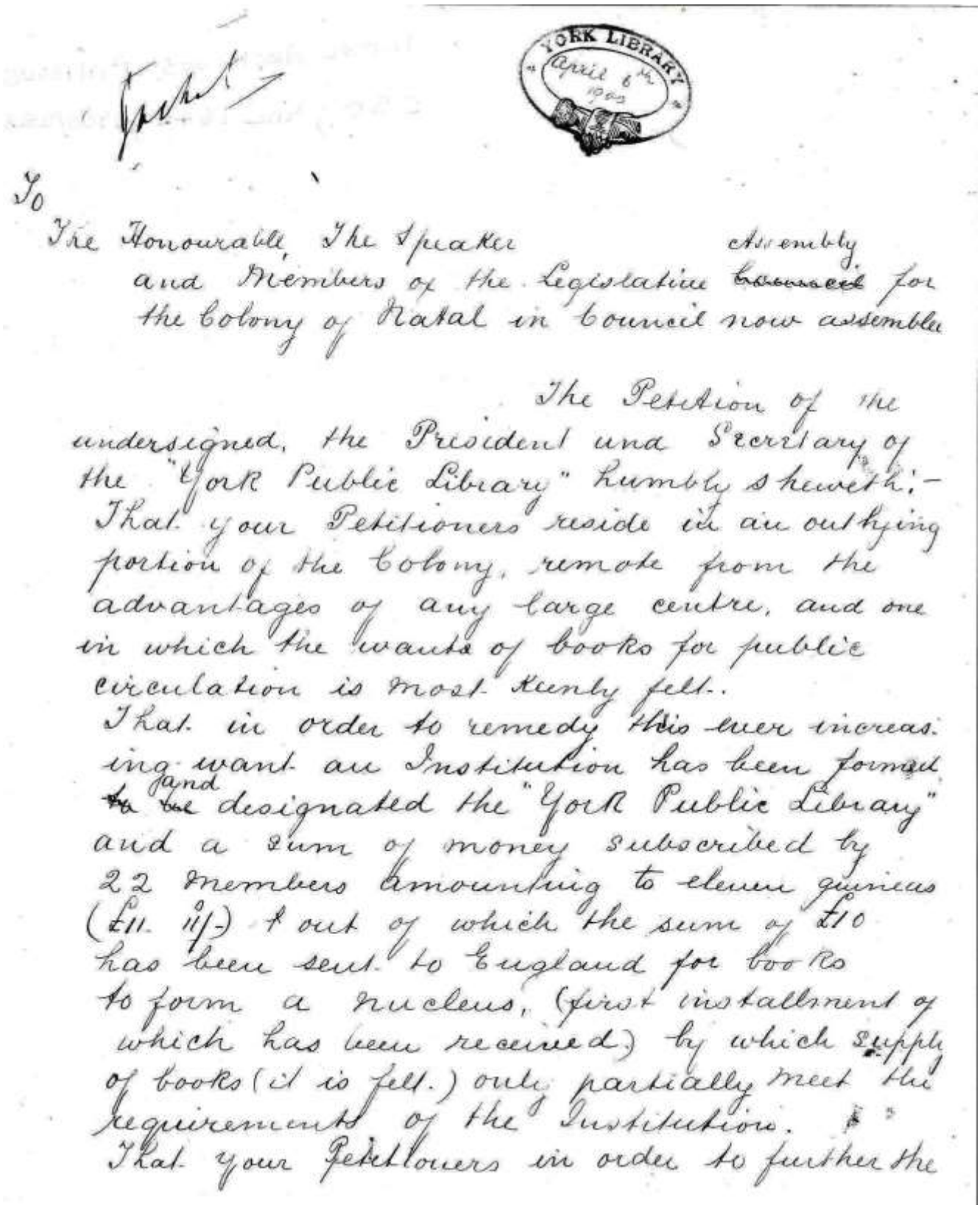
Appeal

If you can supply me with **any** information, photos, newspaper cuttings, memories, etc. relevant to the village of York, I'd be most grateful to receive them. You can contact me at:

Gavin Peckham: 60 Bryn Heol, Bedwas, Wales, CF83 8FA
Email: gavin.peckham@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +44 79 4955 0221

A1. Petition to the Legislative Assembly, April 1900

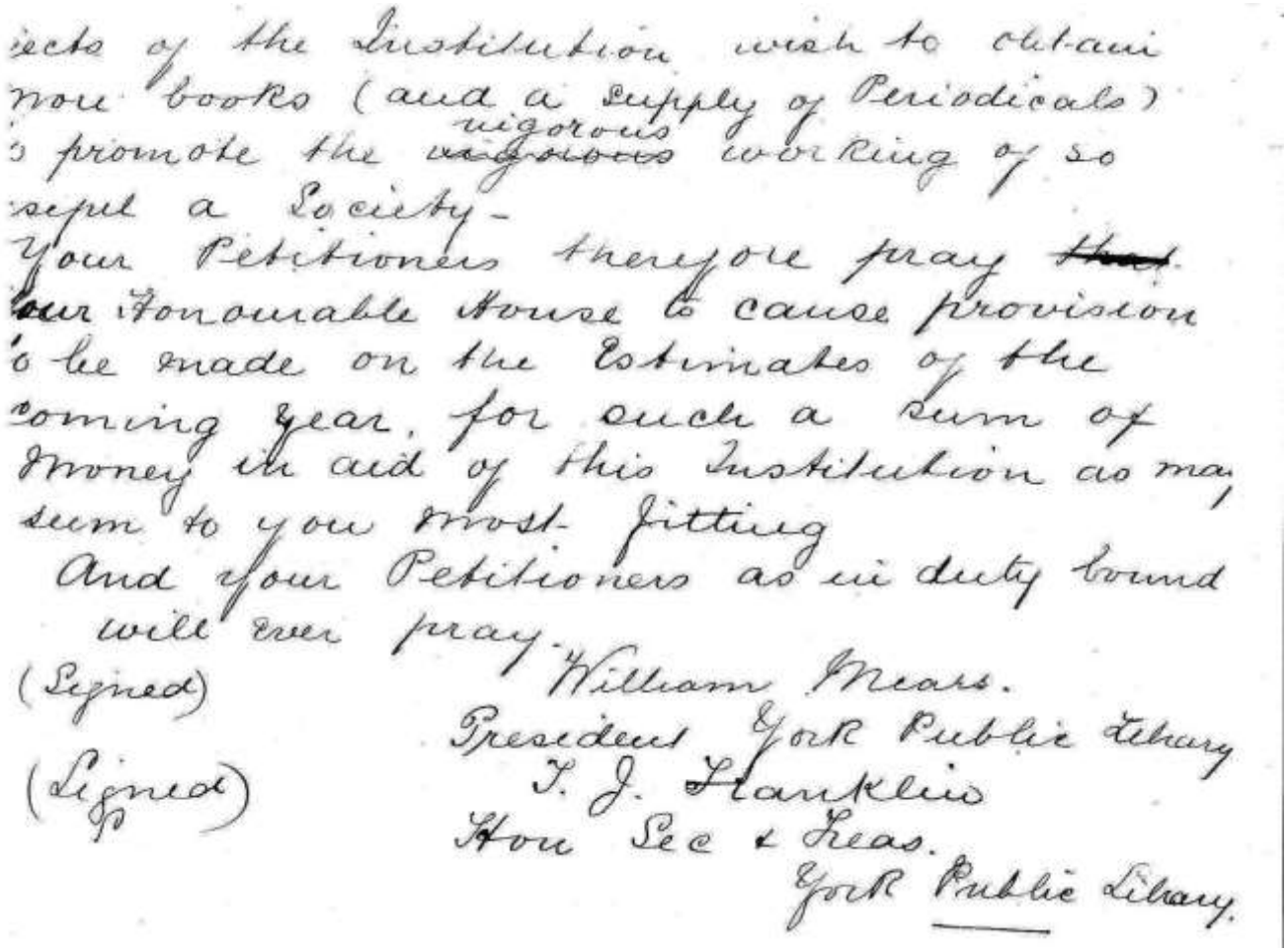
This letter is followed by a transcript.



YORK LIBRARY
April 6th 1900

To
The Honourable, The Speaker
and Members of the Legislative ~~Council~~ Assembly for
the Colony of Natal in Council now assembled

The Petition of the undersigned, the President and Secretary of the "York Public Library" humbly sheweth:-
That your Petitioners reside in an outlying portion of the Colony, remote from the advantages of any large centre, and one in which the wants of books for public circulation is most keenly felt.
That in order to remedy this ever increasing want an Institution has been formed ~~to be~~ and designated the "York Public Library" and a sum of money subscribed by 22 Members amounting to eleven guineas (£11. 11/-) & out of which the sum of £10 has been sent to England for books to form a nucleus, (first installment of which has been received) by which supply of books (it is felt.) only partially meet the requirements of the Institution.
That your Petitioners in order to further the



jects of the Institution wish to obtain more books (and a supply of Periodicals) to promote the ~~vigorous~~ vigorous working of so useful a Society -
Your Petitioners therefore pray ~~that~~ your Honourable House to cause provision to be made on the Estimates of the coming year, for such a sum of Money in aid of this Institution as may seem to you most fitting
And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.
(Signed) William Mears.
President York Public Library
(Signed) T. J. Franklin
Hon Sec & Treas.
York Public Library.

The following is a transcription of the letter above.

April 6th 1900 (Inscribed in the Library stamp)

To, the Honourable, The Speaker, and Members of the Legislative ~~Council~~ Assembly for the Colony of Natal in Council now assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned, the President and Secretary of the "York Public Library" humbly s herewith:-

That your Petitioners reside in an outlying portion of the Colony remote from the advantages of any large centre, and one in which the want~~s~~ of books for public circulation is most keenly felt.

That in order to remedy this ever increasing want an Institution has been formed and designated the "York Public Library" and a sum of money subscribed by 22 members amounting to eleven guineas (£11 . 11/ -) out of which the sum of £10 has been sent to England for books to form a nucleus, (first instalment of which has been received) by which supply of books (it is felt) only partially meet the requirements of the Institution.

That your Petitioners in order to further the objects of the Institution wish to obtain more books (and a supply of Periodicals) to promote the vigorous working of so useful a Society.

Your Petitioners therefore pray ~~that~~ your Honourable House to cause provision to be made on the Estimates of the coming year, for such a sum of money in aid of this Institution as may seem to you most fitting.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) William Mears

President, York Public Library

(Signed) T. J. Franklin [Thirza Jane]

Hon Sec & Treas.

York Public Library

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A2. York Library, Annual Report, 1910.

This letter is followed by a transcript.

RECEIVED
10 AUG 1910
EDUCATION OFFICE

York
Aug 8th 1910

The Secretary
Education Department
Maritzburg.

Sir,
I beg to furnish you with particulars regarding York Library, as required by the Education Department.

The average monthly circulation of books is slightly higher than last year. Also there is an addition of one subscriber

Total number of subscribers	18
" " volumes on the shelves & in circulation	497
Total number issued during the year	602
Percentage of fiction to other reading matter issued during the year	76%
Average monthly circulation	50½
Number of volumes withdrawn from circulation	2
" " Added during the year	47

Of this number 2 come under the History Section. 23 Biography

Travels. 2 General Literature
20 Fiction.
The following magazines are subscribed to for the current year:—

Nineteenth Century. Chamber's Journal, Cassell's Magazine, + Sunday Strand.
2/. worth old magazines have been sold

The Library Building is insured for £100. + the books for £70.
A Reading Room is not attached to the Library.

Yours faithfully
(Miss) A. Plummer
Hon. Sec. + Treasurer
York Library

President
Rev. W. Elliot

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There is a transcript of this letter on the following page.

York

Aug 8th 1910

The Secretary

Education Department

Maritzburg.

Sir,

I beg to furnish you with particulars regarding York library, as required by the Education Department.

The average monthly circulation of books is slightly higher than last year also there is an addition of one subscriber.

Total number of subscribers	*18*
" " volumes on the shelves & in circulation	*497*
Total number issued during the year	*602*
Percentage of fiction to other reading matter issued during the year	*76%*
Average monthly circulation	*50 1/6*
Number of volumes withdrawn from circulation	*2*
" " added during the year	*47*

Of this number 2 come under the History Section. 23 Biography Travels. 2 General Literature. 20 Fiction

The following magazines are subscribed to for the current year:-

Nineteenth Century Chamber's Journal, Cassell's Magazine, & Sunday Strand. 2/ worth of old magazines have been sold.

The library building is insured for £100 and the books for £70.

A reading room is not attached to the library.

Yours faithfully

(Miss) A. Plummer

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer

York Library

President

Rev. W. Elliot

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The library's 1910 balance sheet was enclosed with this letter. A copy appears on the following page.

A3. York Library, Balance Sheet, 1910

Balance Sheet – York Library

July 1st 1909 to June 30th 1910

1909	Dr.	£	s	d	1909	Cr.	£	s	d
	Ink (rubber stamp)		1		Aug	By Balance	2	11	5
Oct	Post Cards			6		Subscriptions	9	3	9
20th	Insurance		5	9		Govt. Grant	5	15	
Nov.	Magazines. (Wilson)	2	13	2	1910	Donation per Mr Curl	2	0	
19th	Exchange		1		Feb.	Mrs H. Smith		2	
May	Books per Mudie's					Sale of Magazines		2	
1910	Library & Exchange	10	2			" Catalogues		2	
	Reid & Neill's acct.,		11	10		" Tin lined packing case		5	
	Paid to Mr Barton for cleaning Library		5	6					
	Stationary		2						
	Stamps, ink, etc.,		1	3					
	Bonus to Librarian		10	6					
	Native labour		2						
	Balance	5	4	8					
	£	20	1	2		£	20	1	2

Certified correct

William Selby

Hon President York Public Library.

8. 8. 10

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